Gary L. Aguilar, MD
909 Hyde Street, #530
San Francisco, California 94109
(415)775-3392 FAX - (415) 563-4453

April 27, 1995

Robert McAfee, MD
President, AMA
515 State Street
Chicago, ILL 60610

Dear Dr. McAfee,

I previously wrote a multiauthor letter to the Board to complain about the peculiar, and potentially libelous, handling of the JFK assassination by JAMA editor, George D. Lundberg, MD. Without boring you with the details, I recieved no satisfactory response and my concerns regarding Dr. Lundberg's indefensible treatment of AMA member, Charles Crenshaw, MD, which has resulted in the adverse consequences I feared. (Copy of my prior letter available by request.) I write you again to suggest Dr. Lundberg appears not to have learnned his lesson, a lesson paid for by the AMA.

Please look at the enclosed open letter I sent Dr. Lundberg. I stake my reputation on the truth of its contents, and I can supply you a copy of any citation in it. I believe Dr. Lundberg is about to do the indefensible again. (Copy of Lundberg's proposed rejoinder to Crenshaw's rebuttal available by request.) As I previously wrote, "If a medical editor is solely entrusted with protecting that his journal publishes no slanderous and scientific falsehoods, and he fails to do so, who then will protect us against him? There must be a mechanism whereby concerned physicians can be heard when it becomes apparent an editor has failed. Inasmuch as we AMA members are shouldering the legal costs of defending Crenshaw's libel suit, is there no way to legitimately challenge what we believe are additional abuses of editorial power, if only to minimize any future legal liability Lundberg might obligate our organization to cover?" Given the outcome of the Crenshaw suit, I believe our prior concerns, which were apparently ignored by the AMA, were valid. I believe the concerns are just as valid in this current issue.

The favor of a reply is requested.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Gary L. Aguilar, MD
Chairman, Department of Surgery, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, San Francisco
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Stanford University Medical Center
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Francisco
Member, Board of Directors, San Francisco County Medical Society
Member, American Medical Association
Member, California Medical Association